

REC-38

November 21, 1963

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b7C

MCT-9 62-109059 - /



Dear [Redacted]

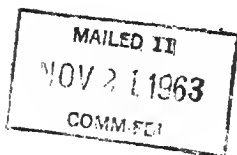
I have received your letter postmarked November 14th, with enclosure. In response to your inquiry, Mr. John H. Griffin has never been an employee of the FBI, and he has not been authorized to act in any official capacity for this Bureau.

Enclosed is some literature I hope will be of interest to you.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director



READING ROOM

NOV 21 4 17 PM '63

Enclosures (3)

Keys to Freedom

Cooperation - The Backbone of Effective Law Enforcement

Know Your FBI

1 - Chicago - Enclosures (2)

2 - Dallas - Enclosures (4)

Attention SAC: See next page.

Follow-up for 12-2-63.

JH:ncr (8)

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
DeLoach _____
Evans _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

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b6

b7C

Attention SAC:

Reference is made to your letter dated 8-22-61 enclosing a letterhead memorandum pertaining to John Howard Griffin. Griffin, of Mansfield, Texas, had written your office to advise of the publication of his book, "Black Like Me." Griffin cannot be otherwise identified in Bufiles, and he has not been authorized to conduct any "study" for the FBI.

You are instructed to contact Griffin and point out to him that the statement has been published that he traveled as a Negro to make a study authorized by the FBI. He should be tactfully requested to insure that such allegations are not made in the future since the FBI has neither indicated approval or disapproval of his activities or of his book. Results are to be furnished, Attention: Research (Correspondence and Tours), to reach the Bureau by 12-2-63.

TRUE COPY

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F. B I
Washington D C.

Enclosed is copy of article which appeared in Waukegan News Sun
of October 19, 1963.

I would be interested to know whether the statement "for a study
authorized by Federal Bureau of Investigation" is true-

Was Mr Griffin employed by FBI to investigate and in what capacity?

If the information cannot be answered I would appreciate a reply
stating that such is the case.

b6
b7C

Very truly yours



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REC- 38

109059-1

12 NOV 21 1963

8/10/63

rec 11 21-63
JH/ner

14 C
11-21-63

J. B. I

Washington D.C.

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True -

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FBI to investigate and in what
capacity?

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answered I would appreciate a
Reply stating that such is the
case



Very Truly Yours

~~ENCLOSURE~~
CORRESPONDENCE

Author Blasts Race Prejudice In South

BY BILL BOLOVNIK
(Staff Writer)

A double-barreled attack on racial prejudice and treatment of prisoners and ex-convicts were topics of discussion yesterday by separate speakers at Lake County's Fall Teacher Institute held on Waukegan High School's west campus.

Keynoter John H. Griffin, noted author from Texas, spellbound the audience with details of his travels through four deep southern states while masquerading as a Negro.

He told of abuses suffered at the hands of the white man while traveling as a Negro to obtain information for a study authorized by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The audience of about 1,500 in two sessions sat in hushed silence as Griffin related his experience as a hitch-hiker. Griffin darkened his skin with a pigment and later wrote a book "Black Like Me" describing his daring travels.

Griffin said he was picked up by a white man while hitch-hik-

109159 - /

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

DEC 2 1963 *mt*

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Evans	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

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URGENT 12-2-63 10-33 AM CST WD

TO DIRECTOR

FROM SAC DALLAS /94-301/ 1 P

JOHN HOWARD GRIFFIN. RESEARCH /CORRESPONDENCE AND TOURS/.

REBULET, NOV. TWENTYONE LAST.

Cgt. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] IS ON TRIP AND IS EXPECTED TO RETURN DEC. TEN. NEXT.
DOES NOT KNOW HIS ITINERARY. WHEN HE RETURNS SHE WILL HAVE
HIM CALL FT. WORTH RA. AS SOON AS HE RETURNS TO [REDACTED]
HE WILL BE INTERVIEWED AS REQUESTED IN RELET AND BUREAU WILL
BE IMMEDIATELY ADVISED.

b6
b7C

END

cc [REDACTED]
66 JAN 6 1964 *file*

11-34 AM OK FBI WA LA

REC-52

EX-114

62-109057-2

6 DEC 27 1963

4918

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

DEC 2 1963

TELETYPE

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HE WILL BE INTERVIEWED AS REQUESTED IN RELET AND BUREAU WILL
BE IMMEDIATELY ADVISED.

END

Jing: MD DeLoach

11-34 AM OK FBI WA LA

b6
b7c

F B I

Date: 12/13/63

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plain text or code)Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Evans	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
 ATTN: RESEARCH (CORRESPONDENCE AND TOURS)
 FROM: SAC, DALLAS (94-301) (RUC)
 SUBJECT: JOHN HOWARD GRIFFIN
 RESEARCH (CORRESPONDENCE AND TOURS)

Re Dallas tel to Bureau, 12/2/63 and Bureau memorandum to Dallas, 11/21/63.

Mr. JOHN HOWARD GRIFFIN, RFD, Mansfield, Texas, on 12/12/63, said he never at any time represented that the FBI had authorized his trip through the southern part of the U. S. during which trip he masqueraded as a Negro. He stated his occupation is that of a writer. He made the trip through the southern part of the U. S. posing as a Negro to secure material. He used this material to write book and to write articles for [redacted]. He stated [redacted] of the Good Publishing Company of Fort Worth, Texas, which company publishes the following magazines for Negroes: Bronze Trills, Sepia, Hep and Jive.

GRIFFIN stated he was misquoted in newspaper article which appeared in the Waukegan News Son on 10/19/63, which was set out in referenced Bureau memorandum.

Mr. GRIFFIN was advised the Bureau has neither indicated approval or disapproval of his activities or of his book.

GRIFFIN stated he has a lot of respect for the FBI and would never knowingly make any statement that might reflect against the Bureau, and stated he was sorry that the reporter had misquoted him.

3 - Bureau
 1 - Dallas
 BTC:rmh
 (4)

EX-114

REC-52

62-1011-7-3

27

C. C. Wick

Approved: **6 JAN 6 1964**
 Special Agent in Charge

Sent

CONFIDENTIAL

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 b7c

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: 2-24-64

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: REPRESENTATIONS REGARDING FBI MADE
IN CONNECTION WITH FILMING OF MOTION PICTURE
"BLACK LIKE ME"

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
DeLoach _____
Evans _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

The Los Angeles Office has forwarded a clipping from the 2-12-64 issue of the Hollywood trade paper, "Daily Variety," which reports that Continental Films will release captioned film which was based on a book by John Howard Griffin detailing Griffin's experiences while posing as a Negro in the South. According to the article, [redacted] reported that while the picture was being filmed, the company hid under the working title of "No Man Walks Alone" and told onlookers or questioners that the film concerned an FBI investigator. The picture reportedly was filmed in Washington, Maryland, Virginia and Florida. It was [redacted] for Hilltop Productions. [redacted]

INFORMATION IN BUFILES:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7/28/88 BY SP8 BJB/bk
290,188

On 10-19-63, a Waukegan, Illinois, newspaper reported that John H. Griffin had made a local public appearance where he told how he had masqueraded as a Negro and traveled in the South "to obtain information for a study authorized by the Federal Bureau of Investigation." We contacted Griffin and he claimed he had been misquoted. He said that his sole purpose for the masquerade was to gather material for a book and articles he was writing. He claimed he had a great respect for the FBI and would never knowingly make a statement against the Bureau. (62-109059)

On 10-4-63, the local representative of Hilltop Productions advised our Tampa Office that it was planned to film the story "Black Like Me" near Tarpon Springs, Florida. That site had been selected because there was less likelihood of trouble arising in that area and the picture required a southern locale. All law enforcement agencies in the area were similarly advised. (157-6-64-644)

[redacted] is a well-known movie and television actor who, in 1960, played the part of [redacted] in the picture, "Who Was That Lady?", which was a ridiculous portrayal of the FBI and which was made over our objections. (62-104466-39) Other information in Bufiles reflects that [redacted] participated in a function sponsored by the American Civil Liberties Union in May, 1960 (62-105051-539); was active in the Enclosure But 2-26-64

1 - Mr. DeLoach - Enclosure REC-23

6 MAR 3 1964

CJH:jaf
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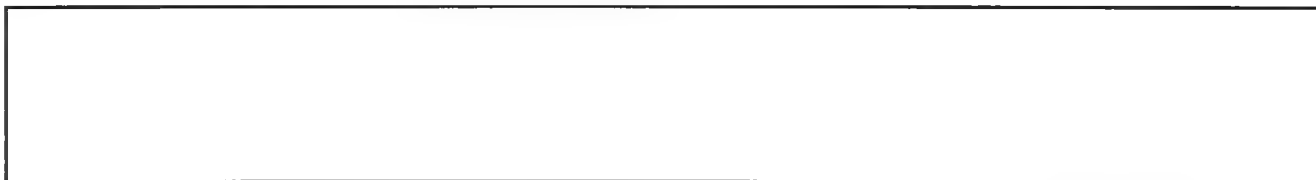
b6
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M. A. Jones to DeLoach memo
-RE: Representations Regarding FBI Made
In Connection With Filming of Motion Picture
"Black Like Me"

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affairs of the Committee For a Sane Nuclear Policy in 1959 (100-429998-16), and was the signer of a petition directed to the U. S. Supreme Court in 1950 requesting that the case of the "Hollywood Ten" be reviewed. (100-138754-637)

One [] described as a [] is the subject of a closed Security Matter-C investigation [] He was on the Security Index of the New York Office until 1955 and had been an active member of the Communist Party in the 1940's.



Bufiles contain no information identifiable with [] and no pertinent information identifiable with Continental Films.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the attached airtel be sent to Los Angeles instructing that office to be alert during contacts with established sources to determine if this film contains any actual references to the FBI.

OK
H
✓
[Signature]
[Signature]
[Signature]

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Director, FBI
Attn: Crime Records

FROM : SAC, New Orleans

SUBJECT: JOHN HOWARD GRIFFIN
RESEARCH

DATE:

Robert E. Wick is on releasable names list

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Belmont	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Casper	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. Felt	
Mr. Gale	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Sullivan	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Miss Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

Re New Orleans telcall to Bureau and Butelca.
New Orleans 1/22/65.

At approximately 11:30 a.m., 1/22/65, an individual who identified himself as [redacted] for WKTS radio, Sheboygan, Wisconsin, telephone [redacted] area code [redacted] telephonically contacted the New Orleans Office.

[redacted] advised that one JOHN HOWARD GRIFFIN is supposed to appear in Sheboygan within the next several days. [redacted] stated he had been told that GRIFFIN wrote a book entitled "Black, Like Me" based on a tour of Southern states, which may have occurred as long ago as 1957 to 1959. According to [redacted] GRIFFIN was allegedly asked to make the tour in question by the FBI and allegedly claimed to have been in continuous contact with the FBI in New Orleans, Louisiana, during his so-called tour.

[redacted] said the purpose of his call was to find out whether the above comments in regard to the FBI were or were not true. [redacted] was informed that no comment could be made at the time of his call but that he would be recontacted by the New Orleans Office.

After determining a check of the New Orleans indices was negative with regard to GRIFFIN, the above inquiry was discussed with Mr. ROBERT E. WICK of the Bureau. Mr. WICK subsequently advised that GRIFFIN is a white man from Texas who masqueraded as a Negro during his trip through the South and subsequently wrote the above referred to book. He added that a movie based on the book was subsequently made entitled "No Man Walks Alone", and that at one time GRIFFIN was quoted as saying he was working for the FBI during his trip through the South.

2 - Bureau
1 - New Orleans

HGM:sam
(3)

REC-162-109054.5

JAN 27 1965

CRIME RESEARCH

Mr. WICK stated there was no truth to any comment to the effect that GRIFFIN had made a trip at the request of the FBI or had ever been employed by the FBI. Further, that the FBI had nothing whatsoever to do with his trip and at one time when GRIFFIN was questioned about having made a similar statement, GRIFFIN claimed he had been misquoted. Mr. WICK stated [] inquiry should be responded to in line with the afore-mentioned comments.

At 3:14 p.m., 1/22/65, [] was reached at Sheboygan, Wisconsin, and was told there was no truth to the comments made to him in regard to JOHN HOWARD GRIFFIN possibly being employed by the FBI, that the FBI had nothing whatsoever to do with his trip, and on one occasion when questioned about having made a similar statement, GRIFFIN claimed he had been misquoted.

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During this conversation, it was determined that [] information came from one of GRIFFIN's booking agents. After furnishing [] with the above information, [] said "I had hoped that was the kind of an answer you would give me".

No further action being taken in this matter.

SI-106

REC-51

October 7, 1971



Dear 

Your letter was received on October 4th.

In answer to your inquiry, information in FBI files must be maintained as confidential due to regulations of the Department of Justice. I regret we are unable to be of assistance in this instance and hope you will not infer either that we do or do not have the data you desire.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

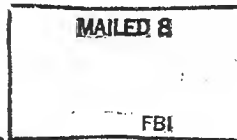
John Edgar Hoover
Director

NOTE: Correspondent not identifiable Bufiles. John Howard Griffin posed as a negro in South and wrote book, "Black Like Me," later filmed as "No Man Walks Alone," regarding his experiences. Griffin reported in 1963 to have stated he traveled "to obtain information for a study authorized by the Federal Bureau of Investigation." When contacted, stated never made such statement. (62-109059)

DCL:gar (3)

Tolson _____
Felt _____
Rosen _____
Mohr _____
Bishop _____
Miller, E.S. _____
Callahan _____
Casper _____
Conrad _____
Dalbey _____
Cleveland _____
Ponder _____
Bates _____
Tavel _____
Walters _____
Soyars _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

62 OCT 15 1971
edm



MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

TRUE COPY

9/28/71

REC-51

Gentlemen,

I am a student of "Springfield Gardens High School" in Queens. In my English class we are reading the book ~~"Black Like"~~. We would like to know if you have any information about ~~John Howard Griffin~~. If so, can you tell me what he is presently doing.

Thank You,
Very Truly Yours

[Redacted]

See yellow

Index ing

J. Edgar Hoover- Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C.

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b7C

[Redacted]

TRUE COPY

ST-106

REC-51

105-11-1-1

OCT 8 1971

9/28/71

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b6
b7C

CORRESPONDENCE

10-11-71
ack/mir
10-10-71
10-10-71